



Working Together for a Better Beginning

"In states that make it a priority to educate our youngest children...studies show students grow up more likely to read and do math at grade level, graduate high school, hold a job, form more stable families of their own. We know this works. So let's do what works and make sure none of our children start the race of life already behind."

—President Barack Obama, State of the Union, February 12, 2013

Early Childhood Development

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

October 18, 2013

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

Have you been to our website recently?

Learn more about the Office of Early Childhood Development and click [here](#).

The Affordable Care Act

Visit www.healthcare.gov



Logo of Health Insurance Marketplace, Have health insurance questions? which is linked to https://www.healthcare.gov/quick-answers/?fromLoc=MPBadge&utm_medium=widget&utm_content=120x130-en&utm_campaign=hcgov

Check out the ACF blogs

Lights Turn Back On In Government, Stay On In Afterschool Programs

By Shannon Rudisill

This week, more than 8,000 **Lights On Afterschool** events will take place in communities across the country and at U.S. military bases worldwide.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Afterschool Alliance, and thousands of public and private partners will join together to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of afterschool programs helping kids reach their potential — and helping their moms and dads go to work. As federal employees return to work today across the country, we have an opportunity to think about the impact afterschool programs have on working parents and school-age children.

Each day, 8 million students attend afterschool programs around the country — in schools, child care centers and community-based organizations. For more than half a million of those children, the Child Care and Development Fund, administered by the Office of Child Care, is paying part of the cost.

As the mother of second and fifth grade boys, I can attest that I wouldn't be at work today without our afterschool program. I've watched new interests blossom, cross-age friendships form and collaborative projects come to fruition — like massive Lego building projects and talent shows. Most impressive, my oldest son worked with friends to build a boat out of nothing but cardboard and duct tape and then raced it in a local lake. That boat held multiple children and even won a race! And they get outside to play — A LOT — more important than ever since I know first-hand the struggle to reduce screen time.

Read more [here](#).

This message was originally published on the Administration for Children and

Featured Research



[National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being \(NSCAW II\) Wave 2 Child Permanency Report](#)

Within 18 months after the close of a Child Protective Services investigation, 22.3% of a nationally representative sample were placed out of home, according to this report, which summarizes permanency outcomes for children at Wave 2 of NSCAW II.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre>

[Key Elements of a QRIS Validation Plan: Guidance and Planning Template](#)

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems' administrators are seeking resources and technical assistance for sorting out the goals and methods associated with different validation questions and approaches. This guidance and planning template is a practical tool that states and evaluators can use to develop QRIS validation efforts. This guidance builds on the information provided in the [QRIS Evaluation Toolkit](#) and a [brief on QRIS validation](#).

[CLASP: Data Show Critical Role of Head Start in the Lives of Poor Children and Their Families](#)

Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) provide poor children and their families with vitally important early

Families' Family Room Blog. To read more about ACF projects and programs, visit the blog at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog>. For more information about Lights On Afterschool visit the Afterschool Alliance website at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>.

Federal Government Re-opened

The House and the Senate reopened the government and raised the debt ceiling to allow federal funding to flow for discretionary programs like Head Start and the discretionary portion of the Child Care and Development Block Grant at the sequestered FY 2013 levels through January 15.

There are three deadlines that will impact our work ahead.

- **December 13:** Congress agreed to hold a budget conference by December 13 to discuss short- and long-term budget issues.

ACF is working on investments in early learning including the President's proposal to provide \$75 billion for preschool, new investments for Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships and \$15 billion for home visiting over 10 years.

- **January 15:** The Continuing Resolution, which funds programs at the FY 2013 sequester levels, will expire.
- **February 7:** The Debt Ceiling extension expires.

RTT-ELC Applications Submitted Oct 16

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services announced that 16 states and the District of Columbia submitted applications for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge, a \$280 million state-level competitive grant program to improve early learning and development. Applicants included: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

In August, the Obama Administration released the final application for the second Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) competition, which provides grants at the state level to improve the quality of early learning and development programs and close educational gaps for children with high needs. The program also supports states' efforts to design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning and development programs and services.

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Departments) conducted the first RTT-ELC competition under the Race to the Top program in FY 2011 and awarded grants to nine states: California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington. In FY 2012, the next five highest-rated states from the FY 2011 competition received funding:



Photo of children with hands raised.

education and family support services. In 2012, the Head Start preschool program served over 946,000 young children and their families and Early Head Start served more than 151,300 children under age 3 and 16,175 pregnant women.

Annually, CLASP does an analysis of the Program Information Report (PIR) from the Office of Head Start.

Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon and Wisconsin. As a result of this investment these states are building a more unified approach to supporting young children and their families. They are improving access to high-quality early learning and development programs and helping to ensure that children enter kindergarten with the skills, knowledge and outlook toward learning they need to be successful in school and in life. The Departments continue to work closely together on new initiatives to improve and expand services for children from birth through age 5. The President's 2014 budget request includes a historic [new investment in early learning](#) that will build upon RTT-ELC to ensure that all children have the opportunity for a strong start in life.

Continue reading by clicking [here](#).

Back for a Thank you and Farewell

Friday, October 18th is George Sheldon's last day at the Administration for Children and Families. At ACF, George has championed the cause of early childhood development among low-income families, worked to expand the use of trauma informed care and practices in the foster care system, pushed for better prescribing and monitoring practices within the foster care system for the use of psychotropic medications, and led HHS's efforts in the fight against human trafficking, focusing on the enhancement of survivor services.

It's hard to lose good leadership, and at today's good-by get together, it was obvious that although all wished George well in his future plans, he will be missed.



HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius bids a farewell to Acting Assistant Secretary George Sheldon (Left). The New Acting Assistant Secretary will be Mark Greenberg (right) who is accompanied by ACF Chief of Staff Mike McCauley (far right).

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Deputy Secretary Bill Corr and Chief of Staff Andrea Palm joined ACF staff to thank George for his compassion, hard work and integrity. The ACF Leadership Team spoke briefly with special highlights that provided a special glimpse into George's leadership during his two and a half years in Washington, D.C.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Mark Greenberg will become Acting Assistant Secretary on Monday.



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



YouTube logo linked to

<http://www.youtube.com/usgovacf>

RSS feed logo linked to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/rss>

Twitter logo linked to <https://twitter.com/ACFHHS>

[Sign up](#) to receive the Early Childhood Development Newsletter. If you have questions or comments regarding the newsletter please contact:
marsha.basloe@acf.hhs.gov

For more information on the Early Childhood Development Office at ACF, visit the website <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd>.

The Early Childhood Development newsletter contains links to other websites and news articles. These links represent just a few examples of the numerous reference materials currently available to the public. The opinions expressed in any articles or web pages do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families. The inclusion of resources should not be construed or interpreted as an endorsement of any private organization or business listed herein.

The text, accompanying graphic artwork, and/or attachments in this e-mail are compliant with the Section 508 Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.